

IBC MALAYSIA

'A' Level Diploma in Buddhist Studies

Module BSI:	Buddhism, Society and the Individual
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1. Module Description

This module will introduce the students on the various aspects of Buddhist social philosophy and its historical development. It consists of various topics, such as the Buddha and society, the Buddhist stratification of society, social implication of the five precepts, Buddhist perspectives on morality, ethics and economics, Buddhism and the environment, and human rights.

2. Learning Outcomes

At the end of the module, students are able to

1. Understand the fundamental teaching of Buddhist perspectives of ethics and morality.
2. Examine this teaching and understand their significance to the society.
3. Apply this Buddhist code of ethics in daily life which conduce to well-being and happiness.

3. Module Organization

This module will be taught by way of lectures, reading assignments, class discussion, PowerPoint presentations. The module will be delivered in 45 hours of lectures over a period of 10 weeks.. Students have to write an assignment of 1500 words and sit for a 3-hour written examination at the end of each module. Students will be assessed through their class performance, presentation, written assignment and examination.

3. Assessment

Class Participation	10%
Presentation	10%
Assignment	30%
Examination	50%

5. Module Plan

- Week 1. 1.1 Introduction
1.2 Buddhist attitude to society and social problems.
- Week 2. The foundation for a peaceful society: A Buddhist perspective- five precepts.
- Week 3. Buddhist way to a harmonious society: the four sublime states of mind
- Week 4. The Buddhist way to improve human relationship: Four ways of persuasion
- Week 5. Buddhist attitude towards nature
- Week 6. 6.1 Buddhist Social Ethics.
6.2 Buddhist attitude towards parents. Filial piety in Buddhism.
- Week 7. 7.1 Buddhist attitude towards gender.
7.2 Buddhist attitude towards material wealth.
- Week 8. 8.1 Buddhist attitude towards social conflict and war.
8.2 Buddhist attitude towards suicide and euthanasia.
- Week 9. Students' Presentation and Review
- Week 10. Examination

6. Requirements

Students are expected to acquire an in-depth knowledge of the topics taught. Class participation by way of Q&A and discussion will be encouraged. A suitable amount of time will be allocated at the end of the course for review and preparation for examination. To be eligible to sit for the examination, students must attend a minimum of 80% of the scheduled classes, complete a written assignment of 1500 words and deliver a class presentation.

7. Recommended Reading List

- Bhikkhu Bodhi. *Facing the Future*. Sri Lanka: Buddhist Publication Society, 2000.
- Gnanarama, Ven Pategama. *Aspects of Early Buddhist Sociological Thought*. Singapore: Ti-Sarana Buddhist Association, 1998.
- Narada, Mahathera. *The Buddha and His Teachings*. Taiwan: The Corporate Body of the Buddha Educational Foundation, 1998.
- Harvey, Peter. *An Introduction to Buddhist Ethics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Paul, Diana. *Women in Buddhism: Images in the Feminine in the Mahāyāna tradition*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985.
- Classic of Filial Piety (Xiao Jing 孝經)* tr. James Legge, 2nd edition, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1879.